



Better Buildings Residential Network
Program Sustainability Peer Exchange Call:
*Complementary State Policies for Energy
Efficiency Programs*

Call Slides and Summary

July 18, 2013

- Call Logistics and Roll Call
 - What policies does your state have that help promote energy efficiency? What policies do you wish it had?
- Poll on State Policies
- Program Experience
 - [Mary Cohen, NeighborWorks of Western Vermont](#)
 - [Denee Evans, Energy Fit Nevada](#)
- Discussion
 - What state policies are most important for driving residential energy efficiency upgrades?
 - What resources and/or partnerships are most useful for impacting state policy?
 - What would help programs encourage state energy efficiency policies?
- Future Call Topics

Participating Programs and Organizations



- Alabama
- Boulder County, CO
- Eagle County, CO
- Kansas City, MO
- Los Angeles County, CA
- Maryland
- Michigan
- NESCAUM
- Nevada
- New Hampshire
- Rutland County, VT
- Seattle, WA
- Southwest Energy Alliance
- Virginia

- What state policy is (or would be) most effective for driving residential energy efficiency upgrades in your area?
 - Energy Efficiency (or Renewable) Portfolio Standard: 36%
 - On-bill repayment: 27%
 - Disclosure requirement (e.g., at point of sale): 27%
 - Energy efficiency loan fund capitalization: 9%
 - Other (chat in): 0%

- What would help your program play a role in state energy efficiency policy?
 - External partners/coalitions for energy efficiency: 42%
 - More/better information on program accomplishments/benefits: 42%
 - Other (chatted in): 16%
 - Willingness of state to share information and allow substantive policy discussions about energy efficiency
 - All of the options are important, but they need to be pushed at the same time as an overall multifaceted strategic approach
 - Information about state energy efficiency policies : 0%
 - Internal understanding of state energy policies: 0%

- To what extent do you feel like your program can influence state energy efficiency policy?
 - A lot : 22%
 - Somewhat: 44%
 - Very little: 22%
 - Don't know: 0%
 - N/A: 0%

- Statewide goal to weatherize 80,000 homes and to have 90% of the state's energy come from renewables by 2050
- 2013 Legislature created financing programs to promote energy efficiency and clean energy deployment:
 - VT Economic Development Authority (VEDA) can borrow up to \$10 million from the state Treasury to establish loan programs and a new energy efficiency loan guarantee program for the commercial sector
 - \$6.5 million to support a residential efficiency loan programs; partners, such as Neighborworks of Western Vermont, will help administer this loan program
 - Influenced by Clean Energy Investment Summit in June 2012, which was convened by the Governor to catalyze clean-energy investments in Vermont; it brought together VT's renewable energy and energy efficiency businesses, lenders, utilities, state and federal officials, clean-energy organizations and others
- Some of the challenges in VT that Neighborworks is working to address:
 - Homeowner confusion about how to access energy efficiency funds
 - Finance providers not familiar with the credit product and hesitant to offer
 - No organization to set-up and administer PACE

- Nevada's 2013 biennial Legislative Session strengthened renewable energy but weakened energy efficiency (EE):
 - NV Energy will retire much of its coal-fired electricity generation and replace it with renewable energy and other sources
 - NV's Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) tightened:
 - NV's current RPS requires that by 2025, 25% of the electricity sold by the state's investor-owned utility must be generated from renewable resources; the RPS law also established a system of portfolio credits that the utility uses to comply with the standard
 - The bill cleans up and strengthens NV's RPS by reducing the difference between the portfolio energy credits earned and reported by a utility and the kWh from renewable energy resources used by the utility's retail customers
 - Companion legislation to establish a separate EE standard (previously within the RPS) was expected, but in the end not introduced, leaving EE out of the new RPS
 - This may be addressed in the next legislative session in 2015

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Stand-Alone Energy Efficiency Standard



- Without supportive EE policy, it can be difficult to drive investments in EE forward
- Nevada was not able to introduce a separate EE standard in 2013
 - Utilities manage energy efficiency programs in Nevada; without a stand-alone EE standard, it is difficult to meet cost-effectiveness tests for EE
 - EnergyFit Nevada is interested in working with supportive partners in the state to advance policies that drive EE
- New Hampshire is considering establishing an EE standard
 - The state has climate goals, but no mechanisms to achieve them; an EE standard could be a stepping stone to achieve greenhouse gas reductions
 - Goal would have three components:
 - Increased EE goal for utility-run programs
 - EE goal for state buildings
 - Statewide EE benchmarking goal

- Establishing a fund is just the first step; who administers the program (e.g., utilities, NGOs, trusts, investment corporations, etc.) is a significant policy decision
- Resources are needed to issue loans, provide escrow services, and ensure work meets quality standards
 - VT example: As a non-profit housing agency that can offer a loan product, NeighborWorks can act as a lender for its residential loan program. However, VT did not provide operational funding to Neighborworks in 2013. Neighborworks currently relies on other funding for operations, and will seek funds next year to administer the loan program.

- Educate legislators and other decision-makers
 - Programs can play an important role in educating policymakers
 - Engage and establish rapport with those who will be doing the work early in the process (e.g. utilities)
- Form partnerships
 - External partners and coalitions can help make case for EE benefits and promote policy
- Make sure the approach fits the state
 - Context varies: Programs may have to overcome ideological barriers in some states that do not exist in others
 - Some states are more consistent than others and more amenable to statewide approaches, whereas regional approaches may work better in others--especially states that are larger and more diverse

Future Program Sustainability Call Topics



- Program Sustainability Mastermind: Combining Health and Energy Efficiency Services ([July 23](#))
- Coordinating Energy Efficiency with Other Services, such as Radon, Noise, and Seismic Upgrades ([Sept. 12](#))
- Community Readiness Assessments ([October 10](#))
- Update on Trends in Real Estate and Energy Efficiency ([November 7](#))
 - Interest expressed on the call in residential disclosure and point-of-sale policies

Email other suggestions to bbpeerexchange@rossstrategic.com